



-WOHEHIV-
The Morning Star

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
ADMINISTRATION

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Children, Families, Health & Human Services Committee
65th Montana Legislature
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

RE: Opposition to *MAR Notice No. 37-802*

Dear Sirs and Madams of the CFHHS Committee,

I am writing today to assert the Northern Cheyenne Nation's opposition to the amendment on the proposed MAR Notice No. 37-802; Amendments to fee schedules for home and community-based services waiver programs and case management services for persons with developmental disabilities. As President of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council and my Administration are urging the Children and Families subcommittee to push the objection of 37-802. It should be the mission of this committee to protect our most vulnerable people, not make drastic cuts to funding for the services they receive.

The amendments would harm people with disabilities by either decimating their supports or removing needed protections. Under the current Medicaid policy, home and community based services are considered optional and would most likely be the first to cut.

We are people not numbers, Charles Walker, Jr and James Black Wolf, Jr, are enrolled members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. They reside in Billings and receive supportive services from RSS. RSS has released the statement of, "Our people looked out for them and accepted them as part of our community." Both men are receiving personal living supports as well as holding employment in the community with the support provided by Residential Services located in Billings. Without the support RSS provides, they would not be able to live as independently.

This is why my office and the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council strongly urge the subcommittee to go forth with an objection. The cuts included in this Medicaid bill will prove to be devastating for vulnerable individuals with disabilities and trickle down affecting entire communities.

Thank you for considering our position to push the objection.

Sincerely,


L. Jace Killsback, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR - Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.